

## Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 IO-14 ACDA-12 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05  
H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 PRS-01  
SP-02 SS-15 USIA-15 HA-05 OMB-01 TRSE-00 EB-08  
/110 W

-----081625 210710Z /13

R 201523Z JAN 78  
FM AMCONSUL MONTREAL  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9935  
INFO AMEMBASSY OTTAWA  
AMCONSUL QUEBEC  
AMCONSUL TORONTO

UNCLAS MONTREAL 0137

E.O. 11652: NA  
TAGS: PINT, CA  
SUBJECT: UNITY TASK FORCE ENDS MONTREAL SESSIONS

REF: MONTREAL 0099

1. TASK FORCE ON UNITY LEFT MONTREAL THURSDAY, WEARY IN BODY AND SOUL AS MARATHON FIVE-HOUR PUBLIC MEETING TUESDAY EVENING ALMOST AS RAUCOUS AS THAT IN WINNEPEG. DISSENSION AMONG FRANCOPHONES AND AMONG ANGLOPHONES WAS AS ASCERBIC AS BETWEEN FRANCOPHONES AND ANGLOPHONES. TASK FORCE MEMBERS GOT THEIR FAIR SHARE OF ABUSE TOO.

2. BRIEFS FILED AT FORMAL SESSIONS TUESDAY AND WEDNESDAY PREDICTABLY ECHOED THOSE OF FIRST DAY: PRIMARILY "RENEWED FEDERALISM" AND RECOGNITION OF QUEBECOIS ASPIRATIONS WITH A FEW PRO-INDEPENDENCE DEMARCHES FOR LEAVENING. CO-CHAIRMAN JEAN-LUC PEPIN FOUND CONCEPT OF CANADA AS PARTNERSHIP OF TWO FOUNDING PEOPLES "THE GREAT COMMON DENOMINATOR" IN HIS SUMMATION OF THE THREE DAYS OF HEARINGS. HE FURTHER REMARKED "WHAT WE HAVE SEEN IS A MIRROR OR QUEBEC SOCIETY AS IT IS IN JANUARY, 1978. AS FAR AS FULFILLING THE PART OF OUR MANDATE WHICH SAYS WE MUST HELP PEOPLE TO DEFINE THEMSELVES,  
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THE HEARINGS WERE A SUCCESS."

3. PRESS AND ELECTRONIC MEDIA GAVE MEETINGS CONSIDERABLE ATTENTION, MUCH MORE OF IT DEVOTED TO SUBSTANCE OF BRIEFS THAN TO BORUHAHA OF TUESDAY EVENING. LATTER DREW EDITORIAL FROM MONTREAL STAR TO EFFECT LOUDMOTHS Demeaned ONLY THEMSELVES, THEIR CAUSE GAINED NOTHING, AND THE SIDE OF THE QUIET CANADIAN

GAINED A GREAT DEAL. LOCAL ANGLOPHONE CTV ALSO DEPLORED THE TUESDAY SHOUTING MATCH IN AN EDITORIAL ON THE NEWS.

4. SEVERAL POINTS IN BRIEFS EVOKED EDITORIAL REACTION. BRIEF OF THE POSITIVE ACTION COMMITTEE WHICH STRESSED, INTER ALIA, THAT ANGLOPHONES ARE ALSO QUEBECOIS, PROMPTED APPLAUSE FROM THE GAZETTE FOR "DISPELLING MYTHS" ABOUT QUEBEC ANGLOS. HOWEVER, ITS CALL (AND THAT OF OTHERS) FOR A CONSTITUENT ASSEMBLY TO DRAW UP A NEW CONSTITUTION DISQUIETED MONTREAL STAR WHICH BELIEVES THAT "THE GREAT ADVANTAGE OF THE BRITISH NORTH AMERICA ACT IS THAT, WHATEVER ITS FAULTS, IT HAS BECOME SHAPED OVER THE YEARS TO CONFORM TO THE CANADIAN REALITY" AND THAT RE-SHAPING IT IS PREFERABLE TO STARTING FROM SCRATCH.

5. BOTH STAR AND LE DEVOIR EDITORIALIZED THAT TASK FORCE IS HEARING NOTHING NEW AND THAT WHAT COUNTRY NEEDS IS NOT REPEAT NOT ANOTHER ENQUIRY ON UNITY BUT HARD POLITICAL DECISIONS.

6. FRANCOPHONE TV (LOCAL CBC) HAS ALSO GIVEN SESSIONS EXTENSIVE COVERAGE AS STRAIGHT NEWS.

7. COMMENT: ALTHOUGH THE COMMUNITY (THOSE WE'VE SEEN) SEEM GENUINELY DISTRESSED BY UGLINESS IN TUESDAY'S OPEN MEETING, WE DOUBT THERE IS THE "SHOCK" EXPRESSED BY TASK FORCE MEMBER SOLANGE CHAPUT-ROLLANDE THAT MONTREAL HAS GROWN "SO INTOLERANT." WE HAVE BEEN SEEING THIS INTOLERANCE GROW IN MANY LITTLE WAYS  
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WHILE SHE HAS BEEN ON THE HUSTINGS IN OTHER PROVINCES WITH THE TASK FORCE. IT WAS THE EXPLOSIVE CHARACTER OF THE INTOLERANCE, EXPOSED BY OBSCENE AND PROFANE LANGUAGE, RATHER THAN THE INTOLERANCE ITSELF WHICH SHOCKED THOSE WHO LIVE HERE.  
HARPER

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## Message Attributes

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**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** NATIONALISM, POLITICAL PARTIES, MEETING PROCEEDINGS  
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